

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: February 21, 2007

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:40 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:25 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Dane Mahern, Chairman
Rozelle Boyd
Ron Gibson
Angela Mansfield
Jackie Nytes
Marilyn Pfisterer
Mike Speedy

Absent Members

Scott Keller
Lance Langsford

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 31, 2007 - reappoints Amy Kotzbauer to the Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals, Board I

"Do Pass" Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 60, 2007 - reappoints Joanna Taft to the Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals, Board II

"Do Pass" Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 61, 2007 - reappoints Bruce Curry to the Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals, Board II

"Do Pass" Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 62, 2007 - reappoints K. Diane Guthrie to the Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals, Board III

"Postpone" until March 19, 2007 Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 63, 2007 - reappoints Frank Hagaman to the Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals, Board III

"Do Pass" Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 64, 2007 - appoints Tom Brown, as a large business representative, to the Wellfield Education Corporation Board

“Postpone” until March 19, 2007

Vote: 7-0

Presentation on Economic Improvement Districts - Will Pritchard, Local Initiatives Support Corporation

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Metropolitan Development Committee of the City-County Council met on Wednesday, February 21, 2007. Chair Dane Mahern called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. with the following members present: Rozelle Boyd, Ron Gibson, Angela Mansfield, Jackie Nytes, Marilyn Pfisterer, and Mike Speedy. Absent were Scott Keller and Lance Langsford.

PROPOSAL NO. 31, 2007 - reappoints Amy Kotzbauer to the Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA), Board I

Councillor Gibson asked for a brief overview of the challenges and responsibilities of serving on the board. Ms. Kotzbauer said at the beginning of her term last year she experienced some problems being reappointed, which caused some coverage issues on the board. She said those problems were worked out, and she has had a good experience serving on the board. Ms. Kotzbauer said the BZA staff has been great to work with and has been very helpful in providing training sessions that help BZA members make their decisions.

Councillor Gibson asked about Ms. Kotzbauer's attendance on the board. Ms. Kotzbauer said her attendance has been good after working through the reappointment issue. She added that the time that she was not able to attend, she made those meetings up by serving as an alternate on other divisions' boards.

Councillor Nytes asked how Ms. Kotzbauer addresses the conflict of interest she may have with her employer and the board. Ms. Kotzbauer said staff is aware of her conflict and has been very careful in scheduling items that may caused a conflict to other board divisions.

Councillor Boyd asked what satisfaction Ms. Kotzbauer receives from serving on the board. Ms. Kotzbauer said she believes in the public process and is happy to serve her community.

Councillor Gibson moved, seconded by Councillor Pfisterer, to send Proposal No. 31, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 60, 2007 - reappoints Joanna Taft to the Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals, Board II

Councillor Gibson said Ms. Taft is very involved in the community and does great work with the Harrison Art Center, and her expertise is recommended on the board.

Metropolitan Development Committee

February 21, 2007

Page 2

Councillor Nytes asked if Ms. Taft has any insight she can bring to the BZA from her work experience. Ms. Taft said she has experience in the public process, and it is important that the community work together to solve difficult problems.

Councillor Boyd asked what satisfaction Ms. Taft receives from serving on the board. Ms. Taft said she has learned how important it is to plan well for the growth of neighborhoods.

Councillor Pfisterer asked about Ms. Taft's attendance on the board. Ms. Taft said she may have missed a couple of meetings; however, she also made them up by serving as an alternate.

Councillor Nytes moved, seconded by Councillor Boyd, to send Proposal No. 60, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 61, 2007 - reappoints Bruce Curry to the Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals, Board II

Mr. Curry said he appreciates the opportunity to serve on the board. This has been a great way for him to serve the community. He said he has been able to combine some of his community development efforts with serving on the board. Mr. Curry went on to discuss his past and present work experience.

Councillor Pfisterer asked about Mr. Curry's attendance on the board. Mr. Curry said he believes he missed three out of the 16 meetings.

Councillor Nytes moved, seconded by Councillor Gibson, to send Proposal No. 61, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 62, 2007 - reappoints K. Diane Guthrie to the Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals, Board III

Chairman Mahern stated that Ms. Guthrie is unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Councillor Gibson moved, seconded by Councillor Pfisterer, to "Postpone" Proposal No. 62, 2007 until March 19, 2007. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 63, 2007 - reappoints Frank Hagaman to the Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals, Board III

Mr. Hagaman said Indianapolis has had a tremendous impact on his professional growth, and serving on the board gives him the opportunity to give back to the community. He said serving on the board has been a learning experience and he would like to continue.

Councillor Nytes asked about Mr. Hagaman's attendance on the board. Mr. Hagaman said he is not sure of his attendance; however, if he has missed a meeting, he also served as an alternate on another division's board.

Councillor Gibson moved, seconded by Councillor Boyd, to send Proposal No. 63, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 64, 2007 - appoints Tom Brown, as a large business representative, to the Wellfield Education Corporation Board

Chairman Mahern stated that Mr. Brown is unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Councillor Boyd moved, seconded by Councillor Gibson, to "Postpone" Proposal No. 64, 2007 until March 19, 2007. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Presentation on Economic Improvement Districts - Will Pritchard, Local Initiatives Support Corporation

Mr. Pritchard gave an overview of Economic Improvement Districts (EIDs) (Exhibit A, attached). Some focus points are:

- EIDs were explored to broaden and diversify funding sources for small businesses and physical redevelopment in districts that were established to revitalize some neighborhood and cultural districts to promote culture and economic development.
- Last year, a public process was done where two areas were focused on for possible EIDs. They are Massachusetts Avenue and Fountain Square.
- EIDs are financing mechanisms used to provide revenue for a variety of local improvements, that are self-imposed, self-governed, and have to be supported by private sector businesses and property owners.
- EIDs can be compared to a common maintenance fee paid by mall tenants that pay for some of the improvements made to a mall.

- There are over 1,000 EIDs in North America, and approximately six in the state of Indiana.
- The budget of EIDs is decided by a board that is created by all the property owners in the district.
- The term of an EIDs is usually ten years and has to be renewed at the end of the term. The renewal rate is 99% nationally.
- There is a broad range of services provided by EIDs that are not meant to replace city services, but to enhance those services.
- Several meetings and surveys were given to residents to educate them on EIDs and to receive input. An outline was then put together from those surveys to show the list of services residents were prioritizing.
- A majority of the property owners have to approve EIDs, because the additional fees are self-imposed and are in addition to property taxes.
- A management plan is being drafted and will outline the process of EIDs, the services and improvement residents are requesting, how much money can be raised in each district, and how the money can be spent.

Councillor Pfisterer asked how the project is being funded during the organizational and investigation phases. Mr. Pritchard said at this point the only cost is to pay for the consultants, which is paid by the organization, Community Development Corporation (CDC), and Indianapolis Downtown, Inc. (IDI).

Councillor Gibson asked for more information on the transportation piece of the requested services. Mr. Pritchard said they are still working on this request. Some possibilities are to extend one of IndyGo's lines. Councillor Gibson asked if IndyGo has been brought to the table. Mr. Pritchard replied in the negative. Councillor Gibson said IndyGo would definitely be interested in having a meeting on this issue.

Councillor Nytes said she is excited about this opportunity, and those residents who are willing to tax themselves to get things done should be commended.

Mr. Pritchard said the uses of the revenues are flexible; however, the revenue can only be used in the districts.

Councillor Speedy asked if EIDs are comparable to a homeowners group that is organized after a development has been in place. Mr. Pritchard replied in the affirmative.

Councillor Speedy asked if EIDs are a good vehicle to motivate others to beautify the community. Mr. Pritchard replied in the affirmative. Councillor Speedy asked if EIDs have been challenged after they are established. Mr. Pritchard said he is not aware of any challenges.

Councillor Boyd asked if the Council can reject EIDs if they are not working for the districts. Mr. Pritchard said EIDs require the Council approval, and a board has to be established. He said if the Council does not approve of the budget or the board, the Council can send it back to the neighborhood to be worked out.

Chairman Mahern asked if there is any new business before the committee. David Pilbrow, citizen, followed up on a presentation he had given to the committee last month and distributed information on a bicycle parking resolution (on file in the Council office).

CONCLUSION

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Metropolitan Development Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dane Mahern, Chair
Metropolitan Development Committee

DM/as

